

The Corines Quackenbush House
("Brown Stone Inn")
N.W. Cor. Franklin and Wyckoff Avenues
Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-702

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Corines Quackenbush House
("Brown Stone Inn")
N.W. Cor. Franklin and Wyckoff Avenues
Wyckoff, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Jay Frank Parmley, Philadelphia
(Wm. H. MacDonald & Sons, agents, Wyckoff
New Jersey)

Date of Erection: Stone unit 1780-1800; frame
annex about 1840 and 1870

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (Original owner) John A. Van Voorhis
(1763-1833)

Present Condition: Well preserved farmhouse
converted to restaurant. Front and rear
porches, second floor partitions, window
sash, roof and dormer windows of main
(stone) Unit not original

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar
in stone unit; two and a half in unexcavated
frame annex. Second story of annex is a
later addition to its first story

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry
Exterior walls - coursed ashlar red sandstone
front, rubble ends and rear, with corner
quoins
Interior walls - stone party wall and frame
partitions
Chimneys - brick, built free of walls
(unusual in Dutch style farmhouses in
this County)
Roof - gable, now composition shingle roofed

Historical Data:

The identity of the original owner of this
well known landmark at the main street crossing of
the village has been established, as above stated,

N.J.
2. Wyck
5.

by deduction from the evidence derived from a search of the property title as recorded in the County archives.

Apparently, this house was erected in 1784 for John A. Van Voorhees at the time of his marriage, and on the homestead farm of his father, Albert W. Van Voorhis, whose house stands next westward (NJ-161). The actual transfer of the lot from father to son does not appear in the County records.

Thus, by his will dated 10 September 1831 and proved 7 June 1833, John A. Van Voorhis^(a) of Franklin Township, Bergen County, after devising to his sons Albert a 16 acre lot then leased to him, James and William a 50 acre lot, Abraham a lot, and his daughters Jane Westervelt and Anny Halstead an 8 acre lot, left to his son John the remainder of his real estate, with cattle, horses, etc., requiring him to provide for testator's wife Tranthy.

Mention of the house of this John A. Van Voorhis is apparently made in a deed of 27 September 1805 conveying to the Reformed Dutch Church a half acre lot "At a place commonly called Wicough and on the East side of the main road leading from the Dwelling House of John Van

(a) John A. Van Voorhis, b. 1763, d. 25 May 1833, a son of Albert Willemse Van Voorhis of Wyckoff, Bergen Co., and his wife Jannetje Van Houten, mar. Christina Bogert, b. 1763, d. 30 Jan. 1847, resided at Wyckoff and had issue: Albert b. 3 Nov. 1785, d.s.p. 1853; James b. 13 July 1788, rem. to Parma Tp., Monroe Co. N.Y. by 1834; William b. 3 Jan. 1791, rem. to Clarkson Tp., Monroe Co. by 1834; Abraham b. 21 July 1793, d. 30 Mar. 1848 at Wyckoff; John b. 30 Oct. 1795, of whom further; Ralph b. 27 Aug. 1798 d. 9 Aug. 1825; Jane b. 30 May 1801, mar. Cornelius I. Westervelt; Ann b. 9 Dec. 1803, mar. John Halsted; and Corinas b. 15 Feb. 1807, d. 24 Mar. 1816. (Voorhees Genealogy, p. 570).

4

Voorhis to the Dwelling House of John Eccerson", in Franklin Township, (Bergen Deed Bk. W-50). Likewise, in a deed of 16 June 1838, John Van Voorhis Jr. and wife Sally of Franklin Twp. to the Elders of the Dutch Church of Wyckoff, in which a quarter acre addition to the church lot is conveyed, is mentioned the "East side of the public road leading from the house of the said John Van Voorhis Jr. to the house of Cornelius Ackerman." The road mentioned is obviously the present Main Street in the village. (Deed Bk. Z3-454). The church has been surveyed as NJ-338.

John Van Voorhis Jr.(b) to whom was devised the paternal homestead in 1831 as recited above, evidently was residing thereon in 1838. He acquired from his brothers James and William by deed of 6 May 1834 the 50 acre tract on both sides of Main Street, south of the Church, which they had received in the will of their father. (Deed Bk. M3-251).

But by deed of 25 August 1840, this John Van Voorhis Junr. and wife Sally, of Franklin Township, Bergen County, conveyed the homestead farm in four tracts to Corines Quackenbush of same township for \$6000. The lines of the first tract are described therein as beginning "In the centre of the Cross Road near the dwelling house of the said John Van Voorhees Junr.",

(b) John Van Voorhis Jr., b. 30 Oct. 1795, d. 28 May 1856 in Michigan, a son of John A. Van Voorhis of Wyckoff, N.J. and wife Christina Bogert, mar. Sarah Storm who d. 14 Jan. 1854, and had son John Jacob b. 24 Sept. 1828.

N.J.
2. WYCK
5

thence N 70 W 58 chains, S 19 W 20.13, S 70 E 58, and N 19 E 23.73, containing 137.63 acres, excepting 10.17 acres from the west end previously sold to Abraham P. Winter.(c) The second lot is described merely as one "adjoining said lot on the East side thereof, "containing 61.57 acres; the third as "A lot adjoining the above lots, on which the Buildings of the said John Van Voorhis Jr. are erected"(d) containing 9.89 acres; and the fourth as an 8.56 acre lot in same township. (Deed Bk. B4-508).

(c) By deed of 6 July 1808, the heirs of the four daughters of Jan Albertse Van Voorhees of Paramus, Bergen Co., by their attorney David G. Ackerman, conveyed to their cousin John A. Voorhis of Franklin Twp. this 137 acre tract, describing it as the northern half of the farm which said Jan Albertse Van V. devised to his sons Albert and Adam by will dated 1st Jan. 1757, and reciting that Adam came into possession of this half by a release dated 21 May 1767 from Albert, that Adam died without issue 23 Mar. 1808 whereupon his part reverted to the said heirs to his sisters. (Bergen Co. Deed Bk. B2-392). This tract obviously was included in the devise to son John Van Voorhis Jr. which appears in the will of said John A. Van Voorhis, 1831, cited above. It formed the southwest corner of Franklin and Wyckoff Avenues.

(d) "The Quackenbush House or Brownstone Inn, northwest corner of Franklin and Wyckoff Avenues was built by John Van Voor Haze shortly after 1780. It was purchased by Corines Quackenbush in the early 19th century. Though it has been extensively renovated both inside and out, the house, built of native stone, is unmistakably Dutch Colonial."(Federal Writers' Project of the W.P.A., The Story of Wyckoff, no date, p. 45, and photo frontispiece).

"Corines Quackenbush, b. 11 July 1800, d. aged 89 bought the stone house nearby on the main corner of Wyckoff, supposedly from a John Van Voorhis and left it to his eldest son John. This house is not marked on Erskine's map, and was probably built shortly after the Revolution." (R.F. Bailey, Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families, 1936, p. 321).

On the Erskine survey map of 1778-1779(e) the site of "Wyckoff" village is so indicated, and the road from present Franklin Lake (now Main Street - Wyckoff Avenue) there intersecting, but not crossing, the road from Oakland to Hohokus (now Franklin Avenue)*, but no house at that point. The opening of Wyckoff Avenue extension from Franklin Avenue northward obviously antedates the erection of the house here considered, since the latter faces that newer road; the date of such opening has not been sought for this essay.

Corines Quackenbush abovenamed(f) of Franklin Township, Bergen County, in his will dated 4 November 1879 and proved 11 March 1889, devised to his son John C. Quackenbush "that portion of my homestead farm in which I now reside, lying on the easterly side of the brook, running in a northerly direction through my said farm, beginning at the line of lands of my son-in-law Cornelius A. Smith, running thence north through the center of said brook to the

(e) "Lower Half of an original Survey by Robt. Erskine, F.R.S., Geographer to the Army, 1778-1779", reproduced by the Bergen Co. Hist. Soc. 1920.

(*) Outside the village, Franklin Avenue is called also Wyckoff Road and Avenue on the County Engineer's map publ. 1938.

(f) Johannes (John) A. Quackenbush, b. 3 Feb. 1776 in Tappan, N.Y., a son of Abraham R. and Elizabeth (De Graw) Quackenbush, resided near Oakland, Franklin Twp., Bergen Co., N.J., and d. intestate there Before 9 Apr. 1821, when admin. on his estate was granted to the widow Mary and bro. Abraham A. Quackenbush. He mar. Marytje (Mary) Van Houten, a dau. of Corines and Elizabeth (Reyersen) Han Houten of Oakland and had issue viz. John of Oakland who mar. 25 Dec. 1826 Mary A. Van Sise, Corines of whom further, Abraham Elizabeth wf. of Giles Pool and Mary wf. of Abr. Ackerman.
(continued next page)

public road, thence along the lands of my son Uriah Quackenbush* to the corner of lands of my son Jacob, thence easterly to the public road, it being my intention that this bequest shall include and embrace all the lands of the Homestead farm now in my possession situated on the easterly side of the boundary line herein described, including the corner lot in front of my dwelling house," with the "animals, farming utensils and tools."

To his daughter Eliza Ann wife of Cornelius A. Smith, daughter-in-law Jane the widow of Cornelius A. Quackenbush, sons Jacob, Uriah, James and Peter, and daughter-in-law Jane wife of Henry Quackenbush, various bequests of personal estate were made. The sons John C., Jacob and Uriah were named executors.

(f) - continued

Corines Quackenbush, abovenamed son, b. 11 July 1800 near Oakland, Franklin Twp., Bergen Co., d. 28 Feb. 1889 in possession of the house here surveyed, in the village of Wyckoff, some 4 miles east of Oakland. He mar. Jane Post and had issue viz. John C. of whom further; Eliza Ann b. 31 May 1823, mar. Cornelius A. Smith; Cornelius b. 18 Nov. 1825, d. 7 May 1876; Jacob b. 20 Dec. 1827; Abraham b. 2 Apr. 1830, d. 13 Jan. 1848; Henry b. 2 Feb. 1834; Uriah b. 20 May 1836; Jenny b. 6 Jan. 1839; James b. 20 Apr. 1841 and Peter b. 11 Mar. 1845. (A.S. Quackenbush, The Quackenbush Family, 1900, p. 197. Bergen Co. land and probate records. Wm. Nelson, Hist. of Paterson & Co. Passaic, 1901, pp. 244 & 252).

* Uriah Quackenbush purchased in 1867 the Albert Van Voorhis farm (NJ-161), next west of the one here surveyed.

In the petition for probate of this will, it is stated that testator Corines Quackenbush died 28 February 1889 at Wyckoff, leaving as heirs: John C. Quackenbush of that place, Eliza A. Smith, widow, of same place, Jacob and Henry Quackenbush, both of Hackensack, Uriah of Wyckoff, James of Paterson, Peter of Wyckoff, as sons and daughter, also Jane wife of Dallas Reese of Paw Paw Grove, Illinois, only child of the deceased son Cornelius A. Quackenbush.

John C. Quackenbush(g) the abovenamed son and devisee of the paternal farm at Wyckoff, held and occupied the same at the date of his will, 23 January 1890, proved 28 January 1895. He devised to his son Abram "The Homestead farm on which I now live, being on the easterly side of the brook running in a northerly direction, beginning at the line of lands of Eliza Ann Smith, running thence northerly through the center of said brook to the public road (Wyckoff Ave.), thence along the lands of Uriah Quackenbush to the corner of lands of Hartung, thence easterly to the public road (Main St.), it being my intention that this bequest shall include and embrace all the lands of the homestead farm now in my possession situated on the easterly side of the boundary lines herein described, including the corner lot in front of my dwelling house."

To his daughter Hester C. wife of Abram Blauvelt, son Abram, grandchildren Lizzy wife of George Winter, Cassy Blauvelt and Bertha Quackenbush, and to John Q. Storms, he devised various lots of land or personal property, provided for his wife Salina for life and gave her the use of "Two rooms and hall on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor and one outside kitchen and firewood."

(g) John C. Quackenbush, b. 18 Nov. 1820, d. 16 Jan. 1895 at Wyckoff, Bergen Co., eldest son of Corines and Jane (Post) Quackenbush of same place. He mar. 1st, 28 Aug. 1840 at Wyckoff, Dorothea Stur, and 2nd Salina Stever, widow. (See reference (f)).

N. J.
2. WYCK
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Abram Quackenbush, son and devisee abovenamed, held and occupied the homestead at Wyckoff at the date of his death intestate there, 26 October 1908, leaving his daughter Bertha Voorhis, of same place, as sole heir. By deed of 10 June 1920, she with her husband Andrew E. Voorhis, conveyed to Hugh J. Edwards and wife, of same place, the "corner lot" opposite the paternal home, describing the lot as fronting northwest on Wyckoff Ave. (Main St.) and southwest on Franklin Ave. (Wyckoff Rd.)

The homestead itself had come into possession of M. M. Freeman & Co. Inc. of Newark, N. J. by 27 Dec. 1933, the date of a deed conveying it from them to Jay Frank Parmly of South Orange, New Jersey, in which the plot is described as having a frontage of 113.58 feet on the northeast side of Franklin Avenue and 120 feet on the northwest side of Wyckoff Ave. At the time of our survey of the house in 1941, Mr. Parmly was said to be of Philadelphia and W. H. Mac Donald and Sons his local agents. It is now used as a "road house" tavern.

Reference:

Search of title to 1879 in Bergen County land and probate records by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 18 July 1941, and to 1831 by the undersigned

Leuris D. Cook
Supervising Historian 6 October 1941

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer